MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Ministry of Justice
-
International Cooperation Office

Statistics
2019-2023

Overview

of the Office on International Cooperation (OIC) at the Ministry of Justice

The Office on International Cooperation was established by virtue of a decision issued by the Minister of Justice on September 1st, 2021Headed by a specialized judge, the Office is in charge of sending and receiving e Mutual Legal Assistance Requests (MLAs) through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, including, inter alia, requests related to transnational organized crimes, corruption crimes and crimes listed in the Anti-Money Laundering Law. These requests are sent by and to the local competent authorities, whether the Public Prosecution at the Court of Cassation or the Civil Courts. Examples of such requests include: investigation, testimonials, interrogation, provisional conservatory seizure, confiscation of assets and seizure of relevant returns, and extradition.

The Office determines the "procedural requirements" of the requests for assistance, prima facie, and coordinates with the concerned authorities to rectify the shortcomings, in preparation for sending them to local and international competent authorities. The Office applies the rules and procedures set in the Ministry of Justice Guide on International Cooperation with the Lebanese Republic.

MLA Requests are accessible within the boundaries set by the Law on Access to Information. The Office tracks the requests sent by and received from foreign and local authorities. The tables and data below (2019-2023) highlight the requests for international cooperation (mutual legal assistance and extradition), issued and received as per the year, country and subject of request.

Mutual Legal Assistance

964

is the total number of mutual legal assistance requests and extraditions issued and received by the OIC at the Ministry of Justice in Lebanon

Requests
695
(72%)

Extradition
269
(28%)
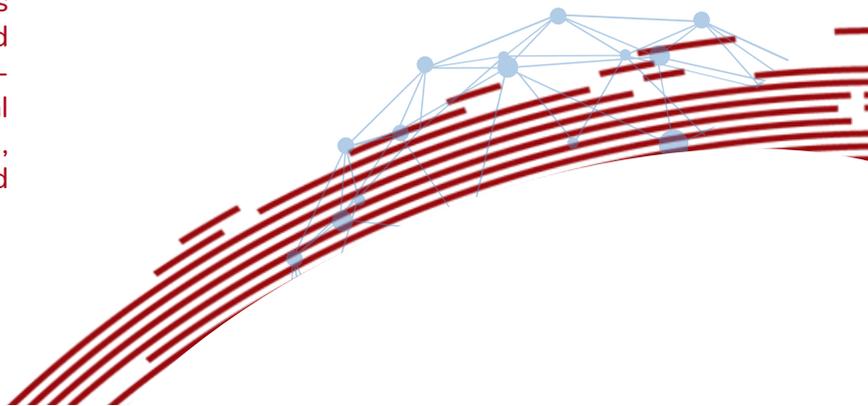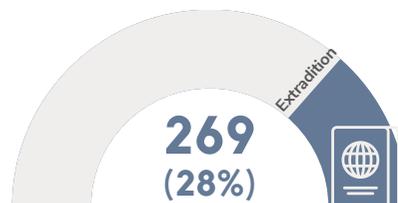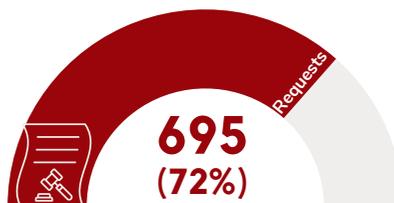
Requests for Legal Assistance

Distribution of issued and received requests for legal assistance

A- As per key subjects

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	695	%
Assets Related Offenses	75	60	85	66	66	352	51
Offenses against persons	38	31	19	12	21	121	17
Offenses against State Security	15	17	36	4	5	77	11
Civil Cases and Civil status cases	14	4	7	14	13	52	7
Offenses against public trust	20	6	15	3	6	50	7
Information request	15	7	9	4	2	37	5
Confidential	0	0	4	2	0	6	1

The **offenses relating to funds** increased between 2019 and 2023 and represented 51% of the total key subjects of the requests.

36%

2019 — 2023

Most **offenses against persons** for the year 2020 resulted from the explosion of Beirut Port.

The confidential requests are classified according to their subject and relevant information.

B- As per the issued and received requests

586 (84%) Received

109 (16%) Issued
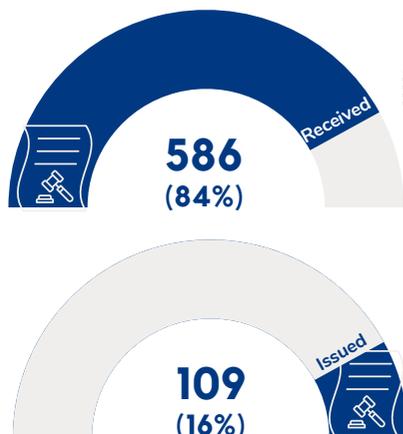
The requests for legal assistance encompassed 75 countries. The top five countries were demonstrated.

C- As per the top five countries

The Republic of Turkey	The Republic of France	The Federal Republic of Germany	The Syrian Arab Republic	Romania
71	62	47	37	31
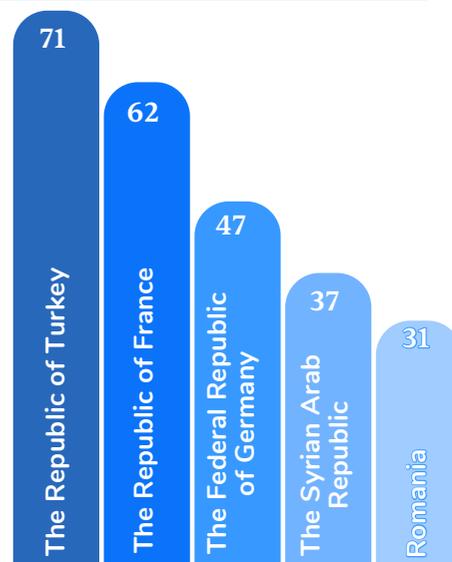
Extradition

Distribution of issued and received extradition requests

A- As per years
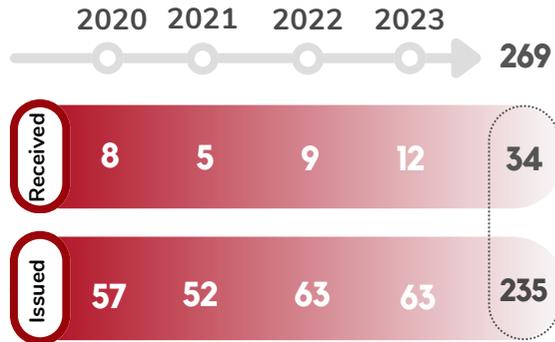
2020 2021 2022 2023 **269**

Received
8   5   9   12   **34**

Issued
57   52   63   63   **235**

B- As per the issued and received requests

34 (13%) Issued

235 (87%) Received

C- As per the top five countries

Country	Value
The Syrian Arab Republic	29
The Republic of Iraq	27
United Arab Emirates	27
The State of Qatar	25
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	17
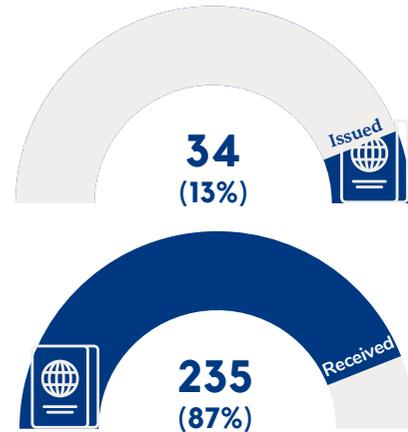
The request for extradition shall be referred to the Public Prosecutor at the Court of Cassation, who shall check whether the legal conditions have been met and then refer the file together with his report to the Minister of Justice .

The decision to grant or reject the request for extradition shall be taken pursuant to a decree adopted on the basis of a proposal by the Minister of Justice.

Article 35/P.C

Process of Mutual Legal Assistance

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants

Ministry of Justice – Office on International Cooperation

Competent Civil Courts

Public Prosecution at the Court of Cassation

Legal framework for International Cooperation

- Bilateral treaties
- Multilateral treaties
- Reciprocity
- International courtesy
- Domestic legal provisions

The statistics of the OIC at the Ministry of Justice
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project by UNODC
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Enforcement Affairs (INL) at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut.

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